

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 /063 W

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O P 220925Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 976

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTS TO
FORESTALL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST U.S. NAVY SHIP
VISITS TO ELEFSIS

1. ELEFTherotypia (left-of-center and strongly anti-US)
on October 21 continued its attempt to build up enthu-
siasm for a demonstration against the use of Elefsis for
US Navy ship visits reportedly being organized for the
afternoon of October 22 under the auspices of the Pasok-
oriented Mayor of Elefsis. The article reports in a
disdainful tone that as part of the pressure being exerted
to prevent the demonstration, New Democracy Deputy Pappa-
Yannis, who represents the Elefsis area, attempted to
read to an organizational meeting a letter from Defmin
Averoff designed to dissuade the Elefsinians and sur-
rounding communities from staging the demonstration,
but was rebuffed by Mayor Levendis, who, in this account,
told Pappayannis that he could read the letter over the
loudspeakers during the demonstration.

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2. THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO QUOTE THE TEXT OF SUCH A LETTER,

PRUPORTEDLY SIGNED BY DEFMIN AVEROFF, AS FOLLOWS: QTE
WHILE NEGOTIATING THE AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE
TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING, IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT
CERTAIN CONCESSIONS WOULD BE MADE ON THE PART OF GREECE,
CONCESSIONS OF A TRANSITORY NATURE. IT WOULD HAVE SHOWN
A LACK OF CIVILITY AND ELEMENTARY DECENCY WERE WE TO HAVE
SUDDENLY OVERTURNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAD MADE PERMANENT
FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO A GREAT COUNTRY, EVEN IF THIS
COUNTRY HAD DISPLEASED US ON CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ISSUES
WHILE HELPING US IN OTHERS AND, IN ADDITION, OFFERING
HOSPITALITY TO TWO MILLION PROSPERING BROTHERS OF OURS.
THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE REQUESTED THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF ALL HOMEPORTED SHIPS, BUT ACCEPTED THAT FOR A
TRANSITORY PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1975, ONE DESTROYER
AT A TIME COULD COME FOR A PERIOD OF TWO TO FOUR DAYS.
THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT HOMEPORTING AND IN VIEW OF ITS
LIMITED EXTENT SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE FOR ELEFSINIANS.
END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOG HAS BEEN MAKING
A DETERMINED EFFORT TO DISSUADE THE MAYORS OF ELEFSIS AND
OF OTHER NEARBY COMMUNITIES FROM GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS
FOR THIS PROTEST DEMONSTRATION (AND AVEROFF'S LETTER
ABOVE IS OBVIOUSLY PART OF THIS EFFORT). THE EFFORT HAS
APPARENTLY HAD SOME SUCCESS SINCE, EXCEPT FOR THE MAYOR
OF ELEFSIS WHO IS INSISTING ON HOLDING THE DEMONSTRATION,
WE GATHER THAT THE OTHER MAYORS HAVE DROPPED OUT. MEAN-
WHILE, THE SHIP VISITS TO ELEFSIS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER
WERE COMPLETED THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 22 WITH THE DEPARTURE
OF THE LAST VISITING SHIP.
STEARNS

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